

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 3, 2006, has been reviewed and the Office Action has been carefully considered. Prior to this paper claims 1-13 were pending in the application. By this paper, Applicant does not add or cancel any claims. Therefore, claims 1-13 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Wachtel for allowing claims 3, 4, 7, 12 and 13.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaaki (EP 0973219) in view of Woods (U.S. Patent Application No. 20010046462). In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant amends claim 1, as seen above.

Applicant submits that the above amendment to claim 1 renders claim 1 allowable for at least the pertinent reasons that make claim 3 allowable, with reference to the "statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter" as detailed on pages 5-6 of the Office Action.

Specifically, claim 1, as amended, recites a controller configured to correct a ratio of the first flow rate of the vapors to the second flow rate of the gas depending on the output of said temperature detector, thereby obtaining a corrected ratio, determine the second flow rate . . . according to the detected first flow rate and the corrected ratio, and adjust a flow rate of

the gas containing the oxygen into said fuel reformer by controlling the supplier of the gas containing the oxygen according to the determined second flow rate.

Applicant submits that the above amendments to claim 1 render the rejections in the Office Action moot, as claim 1 is allowable for at least the pertinent reasons that render claim 3 to be allowable. Allowance of claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Wachtel is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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